students is available. Hostel facilities are available in all the institutions except in Hindu College of Pharmacy, Sonepat.

[*English*]

Rail Fare Concession to Handcapped Persons

3009. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail fare concession given to the handicapped persons has been with drawn if they travel without escorts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government extend this concession irrespective of escorts; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Concession is admissible to the orthopaedically handicapped persons who cannot travel without the assistance of an escorts. No change has been made in the conditions applicable to this concession in the recent past.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The concession is intended to help those orthopaedically handicapped persons who cannot travel without the assistance of an escort. The escort is also entitled to the same concession.

Madras Rapid Transport System

3010. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land for construction of the Madras Rapid Transport System has yet to be handed over by the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken for its acquisition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Land from Km 7.15 to Km 7.5 and from Km 8.0 to Km 8.85 of the project alignment is yet to be handed over by the State Government. The issue has been taken up with the State Government at the highest level.

Direct Flight between Jammu and Leh

3011. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has introduced a direct flight between Jammu and Leh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines proposes to connect other similar remote areas through its flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Indian Airlines has introduced a thrice weekly B-737 service between Jammu and Leh w.e.f. 1.11.91.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines is already operating to remote areas in the country where adequate infrastructural facilities and traffic potential exist. There is no proposal at present to introduce its service to other new stations.